



World Food  
Programme

Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial

Programa  
Mundial de  
Alimentos

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمية

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

## WFP News Release

27 January 2009

### UNITED STATES DONATES FOOD TO WFP'S SRI LANKA OPERATIONS

**COLOMBO** –The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) today welcomed a vital contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) consisting of US\$6.9 million (Rs 785.22 million) worth of lentils, vegetable oil and wheat. The food will be distributed to displaced and conflict-affected people in the northern part of Sri Lanka.

U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Robert Blake handed over the donation - which included 1,344 metric tons (MT) of lentils, 779 MT of vegetable oil and 4,270 MT of wheat - at the WFP Logistics Hub in Wellampitiya. Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, Mr. W.K.K. Kumarasiri, Secretary of the Ministry of Nation Building & Estate Infrastructure Development (MNBEID) and Mr. Adnan Khan, WFP Country Director, accepted the donation on behalf of the people of Sri Lanka.

“We are grateful for this donation from the United States to help feed the hungry in Sri Lanka,” said Adnan Khan. “The US is the largest donor to WFP Sri Lanka, particularly for our emergency operations,” he continued, adding that the donation will enable WFP to feed 430,000 people for more than five months under WFP’s Vulnerable Group Feeding Program.

“This is a heightened time to support the internally displaced persons (IDPs). US support is crucial in this respect. WFP and the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services have collaborated in supporting the IDPs. I look forward to continuing this cooperation,” said Rishad Bathiudeen.

Mr. Kumarasiri thanked Ambassador Blake for this generous donation. “This donation is very timely as we need these food commodities for the emergency programme in the North. I appreciate this gesture of goodwill from the American people.”

“The U.S. Government is pleased to support WFP’s efforts to provide emergency food aid to Sri Lankans severely affected by the conflict,” stated U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake. “Through USAID, in 2008 the American people donated nearly 22,000 tonnes of food relief valued at US\$19 million (Rs 2.162 billion) to help the people of Sri Lanka during these



challenging times. We are glad we can make a difference in so many people's lives, but we are also hopeful that the conditions will improve soon for the people who are most vulnerable in this conflict," he continued.

WFP is assisting the Government of Sri Lanka in feeding 1.1 million people through the emergency feeding programme and recovery programmes including food-for-education, food-for-work and mother-and-child health and nutrition. WFP is presently facing a shortfall of US\$68 million for its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) "Food for Peacebuilding and Recovery in Conflict-Affected areas" this year.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency and the UN's frontline agency for hunger solutions. In 2009, WFP aims to feed around 100 million people in 77 countries.

WFP now provides RSS feeds to help journalists keep up with the latest press releases, videos and photos as they are published on WFP.org. For more details see: <http://www.wfp.org/english/?n=999>.

*WFP now has a dedicated ISDN line in Italy for quality two-way interviews with WFP officials.*

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